

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NAIROB 10670 200559Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 191435Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0654
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY SANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T NAIROBI 10670

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EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: MASS, SO, US
SUBJECT: GROWING APPREHENSION IN KENYA OVER ETHIOPIA-SOMALI WAR

SUMMARY: AS EVIDENCED IN SPECIALLY CONVENED HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON
AUGUST 17, THERE IS GROWING APPREHENSION AMONG KENYAN
POLITICAL LEADERSHIP OVER ANNOUNCED SOMALI SUCCESS IN OGADEN. MORE
SERIOUS THOUGHT NOW BEING GIVEN TO STRENGTHENING DEFENSE
CAPABILITIES OF KENYAN ARMED FORCES IN EVENT OF ANTICIPATED SOMALI
INVASION IN KENYAN TERRITORY..

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1. APPARENT SOMALI MILITARY SUCCESSES IN OGADEN FIGHTING
DURING PAST WEEK HAVE FORCED KENYAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY
AUTHORITIES TO URGENTLY ASSESS NATIONAL DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES
IN ANTICIPATION OF EVENTUAL SOMALI INVASION OF KENYAN NORTHEAST
PROVINCE. THIS CONCERN HEIGHTENED IN LAST FEW DAYS AS RESULT OF
REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD

DURING LAST WEEK'S VISIT TO KENYA THAT SOMALIA WOULD HOPE TO COMMENCE INVASION OF KENYA NORTHEAST PROVINCE AS EARLY AS DECEMBER IF ALL GOES AS PLANNED IN OGADEN FIGHTING. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO INDICATED THAT FRENCH PLANNED TO INCREASE THEIR NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN ALONG EAST AFRICAN COAST AND EXPECTED TO MAKE MORE FREQUENT CALLS AT MOMBASA PORT.

2. KENYANS APPARENTLY PLAN TO APPROACH BRITISH FOR PURCHASE OF TANKS AND ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND ARE ALREADY PRESSING THEM FOR SPEEDY DELIVERY OF ANTI-TANK ROCKETS, LAND MINES AND OTHER DEFENSIVE WEAPONS ALREADY ORDERED PLUS AMMUNITION FOR EXISTING ORDNANCE. ESTIMATE IS THAT KENYANS NOW HAVE AMMUNITION FOR ONLY THREE DAYS OF SUSTAINED MILITARY ACTION.

3. KENYANS REPORTED TO HAVE ALSO CONTACTED ISRAELIS WHO ARE APPARENTLY PREPARED TO PROVIDE ONE SQUADRON OF SKYHAWK AIRCRAFTS AND PILOTS TO FLY SAME IF NECESSARY AND REQUESTED.

4. ANOTHER INDICATION OF GROWING APPREHENSION AMONG KENYANS IS THEIR DECISION TO ACCEDED TO ETHIOPIAN REQUEST FOR INTERMINISTERIAL CONSULTATION WITH ETHIOPIANS AS PROVIDED FOR IN MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY. KENYANS HAVE RESISTED SUCH MEETING UP UNTIL NOW.

ETHIOPIANS PROPOSED INTERMINISTERIAL MEETING BE HELD SEPTEMBER 3 BUT KENYANS SUGGESTED A MEETING OF MILITARY OFFICERS SHOULD PRECEDE INTERMINISTERIAL MEETING AND SUCH A MEETING IS EXPECTED
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TO BE HELD IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS IN NAZARETH, ETHIOPIA.

5. ALTHOUGH SUBJECT OF POSSIBLY REQUESTING DEFENSIVE GROUND FORCE ARMAMENTS FROM USG DISCUSSED AT AUGUST 17 MEETING, NO FIRM DECISIONS APPARENTLY TAKEN ON MATTER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Sent Date: 19-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: GROWING APPREHENSION IN KENYA OVER ETHIOPIA-SOMALI WAR SUMMARY: AS EVIDENCED IN SPECIALLY CONVENED HIGH LEVEL MEETING ON AUGUST 17, THERE IS GROWING APPREHENSION AMONG KEN
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